

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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-----CORRECTED COPY---TEXT ADDED PARA 1 LINE NINE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PEPR, UR, US
SUBJECT: FIRST PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S ANNAPOLIS
SPEECH: NEGATIVE

1. PRAVDA JUNE 8 PUBLISHED TASS-WASHINGTON ITEM WHICH
GIVES AN OVERALL NEGATIVE AND TENDENTIOUS REPORT ON THE
PRESIDENT'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH (ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS TASS/
FBIS TEXT). PARTICULAR ATTENTION, WITH INTERSPERSED
EDITORIALIZING, IS GIVEN TO THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON
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AFRICA, SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY AND (WITHOUT ELABORATING
FURTHER) SOVIET "SOCIAL STRUCTURE." IN TREATING THE
PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON THESE TOPICS THE ANONOMOUS TASS
AUTHOR DISMISSED THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS AS NOTHING MORE
THAN "STANDARD" AMERICAN PROPAGANDA AND "PROPAGANDISTIC
INVENTIONS" CLAIMING THAT THE PRESIDENT "IGNORED" CERTAIN
ASPECTS OF THE AFRICAN SITUATION, WHICH ARE THEN POINTED

OUT FOR THE SOVIET READER, SUCH AS THE "PRETENSIONS" OF THE US-NATO INTERVENTION IN ZAIRE. THERE ARE NO POSITIVE COMMENTS AT ALL ON THE SPEECH, ALTHOUGH THE TREATMENT OF SALT AND THE NEED FOR CONTINUED SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS OF A CONSTRUCTIVE CHARACTER, IS REPORTED IN A STRAIGHT-FORWARD WAY TO INDICATE AGREEMENT WITH THE ESSENTIAL STANCE OF THE PRESIDENT ON THESE POINTS. TASS DISAPPROVINGLY NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT EVEN IN TALKING OF US-USSR RELATIONS HE "PLACED THE ACCENT ON RIVALRY" AND IGNORED THE SSOD AND ITS ISSUES.

2. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SENTENCE IN THE REPORT IS THE FINAL ONE IN WHICH TASS SAYS THAT IN "RULING CIRCLES IN WASHINGTON THE CHOICE HAS STILL NOT BEEN MADE" IN FAVOR OF DETENTE AND DISARMAMENT. SUCH REFERENCES TO THE "INDECISIVENESS" AND "ZIGZAGGING" OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION (IN A SUBTLE GESTURE THE PRESIDENT IS REFERRED TO TWICE IN THE TASS PIECE SIMPLY AS "CARTER," AN UNUSUAL AND CURT FORM) WAS A STOCK ELEMENT IN THE SOVIET PRESS PRIOR TO THE VISIT OF SECRETARY VANCE TO MOSCOW. IT TEMPORARILY DISAPPEARED FOLLOWING THAT VISIT, ONLY TO REAPPEAR AFTER THE GROMYKO TRIP TO THE US LAST MONTH. IN THE LAST WEEK IT HAS AGAIN BECOME THE FAVORED THEME OF SOVIET COMMENTATORS.

3. OUR READING OF THIS INITIAL PUBLIC REACTION IS THAT IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS DEFINITELY MORE RESTRAINED THAN THE QUICK REJECTION WHICH FOLLOWED THE WAKE FOREST SPEECH, BUT MUCH LESS FAVORABLE THAN THE CAREFUL AND POSITIVE REACTION TO THE CHARLESTON SPEECH OF LAST JULY.

4. THE OVERALL IMPRESSION IN THE PRESS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE NOT PLEASED BY THE SPEECH IS HEIGHTENED BY A NUMBER OF HIGHLY CRITICAL ARTICLES IN PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA WHICH SERVE, AT LEAST IN PRAVDA, TO FRAME THE TASS REVIEW. THE CRITICISM IS DIRECTED AT THE RECENT NATO SUMMIT AND SPECIFICALLY AT THE US ROLE IN THE FORMULATION OF THE LONG RANGE DEFENSE PROGRAM. YURIY ZHUKOV IN PRAVDA OF JUNE 8 STATES THAT THE NATO MEETING MARKED THE VOICTORY OF "THE AGGRESSIVE COURSE OF BEZESINSKI (NOTE: A NEW FORMULA) WHICH RUNS COUNTER TO THE COURSE OF DETENTE," A POLICY WHICH HAD BEEN APPROVED BY MANY AND TO WHICH MANY, INCLUDING TWO US PRESIDENTS, HAD CONTRIBUTED. V. KOBYSH IN IZVESTIYA OF JUNE 7 WRITES THAT THE NATO MEETING MARKED THE DRAWING OF THE NATO ALLIES INTO THE WORLDWIDE STRATEGY OF THE US, WHICH IS THAT OF A "GLOBAL GENDARME." KOBYSH CHARACTERIZES THE ADMINISTRATION'S ACCUSATIONS CONCERNING SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA AS

"BASELESS" AND PORTRAYS A HARDENING ADMINISTRATION POLICY WHICH HAS FORCED THE NATO ALLIES INTO A NEW ROUND OF THE ARMS RACE.

5. WE LOOK ON THIS FIRST TASS REPORT AS CHIEFLY A PIECE MEANT TO CONVEY QUICKLY TO THE READERS THE FACT THAT THE SOVIETS WERE NOT PLEASED BY THE SPEECH, BUT NOT AS A PIECE WHICH GIVES THE DEFINITIVE SOVIET INTERPRETATION. WE EXPECT TO SEE AT LEAST ONE, PROBABLY MORE, COMMENTARIES IN THE COMING DAYS WHICH WILL DOT THE "I'S" AND CROSS THE "T'S," ALTHOUGH NOT CHANGE IN A MAJOR WAY THE SOVIET ASSESSMENT EITHER OF THE SPEECH OR OF THE CURRENT COURSE OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY TOWARDS THE USSR.

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